

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE
Appln. No.: 09/682,997 : Confirmation No.: 4681
Applicant: Michael S. Tignor : Group Art Unit: 2836
Filed: November 6, 2001 : Examiner: Benenson, Boris
Docket No.: GEN-0286 :
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For: DIGITAL RATING PLUG FOR ELECTRONIC TRIP UNIT IN CIRCUIT
BREAKERS

March 4, 2004

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

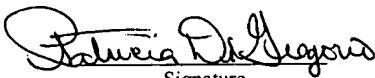
Provided herewith are comments on the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance presented in the Notice of Allowance dated January 29, 2004.

The Examiner remarks that Claims 1, 13, 25, and 30, are allowable over prior art because none of the prior art of record disclose an electronic trip unit for a circuit breaker comprising a microprocessor and a rating plug, which include an identification register for holding an identification number of the plug and wherein the microprocessor performs a validation of the rating plug for operation with the microprocessor in combination with the other claim limitations.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to _____ or Express Mail No. _____ to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Patricia DiGregorio
Name


Signature

April 21, 2004
Date

While Applicant agrees that presented claims pertain to allowable subject matter, Applicant respectfully submits that to the extent that the Examiner's remarks suggest or state that certain limitations or combinations not found in the prior art are present in each and every allowable claim, whether or not specific language to that effect is found in every allowable claim, the record as a whole must be considered in addition to the Examiner's remarks, and, to the extent that the record as a whole is clear and complete, it shall control the interpretation of any and all allowable claims.

More specifically, the Examiner's statement of reasons implies that features found in the specification only, in the dependent claims only, or in some but not all independent claims only, are part of all of the allowable claims, when in fact the record clearly reflects that there are claims not so limited. For example, allowed independent Claims 25 and 30 do not specifically recite an identification register for holding an identification number of the plug. Accordingly, these claims, and claims dependent from these claims that do not recite the same, are not so limited.

Respectfully submitted,

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